

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Reading is one of the four language components that should be mastered by students. Reading is an exercise dominated by eyes and the brain. The eyes receive messages and the brain then has to work out of significance of these messages. Without reading, the students could not enlarge their knowledge and could not access more information. Moreover, teaching reading for students is very important, because it can help them develop their language skill. It is taught as a compulsory subject in junior high school, senior high school and as a complementary subject in university. According to McNamara in Sari (2007: 3), reading is an extraordinary achievement when one considers the number of levels and components that must be mastered.

One of the important aspects of reading is to get the information from the text. Getting information from a text will need an activity called reading comprehension. According to Brown in Sari (2003: 54), reading comprehension is the construction of the meaning of a written the thought of a reciprocal interchange of ideas between the readers and the message in the particular text. In these words, the readers must be able to understand, to interpret and to select actual information from the text.

In teaching reading, it is not easy to make students understand the texts. Ideally for 10 grade students, the level of reading ability is already high, although they may still find some difficulties. They find difficulties caused by

several reasons such as lack of vocabulary; they do not know the meaning and etc. People use the reading comprehension skill to gather and understand information in written texts. By having good reading comprehension, people also can discover the knowledge and information easily from any text. When it comes to the student activity in the class, reading is a skill that is mostly used in conveying the content of a text among students. Reading is an essential skill for second language learners in the academic context. Reading is an important skill that supports the students in understanding and decoding the learning materials. It can help the students to understand about a country and its people. It can serve as a vehicle for entering into the country's present and past civilization. The ability to read will stay with them longer than the other skills, and it is the skill that will be most convenient to use. That is why reading is very important to be taught to the students starting from junior high school up to university. In learning reading, the students are required to understand the text to get the information. They are not required to understand each individual part of the sentence or paragraph, but they should understand the message the writer is trying to convey. According to Oberholzer in Masuhlah (2013) that understand the content of the text is more important than only study or examine about the mechanical skill or reading.

Without understanding, reading would serve no purpose". It means that understanding text is the goal of reading skill that should be achieved by the students in each level of the language learning process. Meanwhile, reading is the ability of an individual to recognize a visual form, associate the form with

a sound and meaning acquired in the past and on the basis of past experience, understand, and interpret its meaning according to (Kennedy, 1981: 5) in Sari (2007).

Based on the explanation above, reading is important in language because the students can get information, ideas, and knowledge. By reading, students can get the knowledge about science, technology, and easy way to get much information that is useful. English is foreign language because all students would agree that reading comprehension is not the simple process because the language is different, so then there may be some kind of difficulties that arise during the reading comprehension process. So then, in this study, researcher focuses to conduct a research that will try to analyze the difficulties that may arise in reading comprehension from an English text. In this research, researcher wanted to know about the difficulties in reading an English text faced by tenth grade at SMA N 1 Patikraja.

B. Research Problems

1. What are the difficulties Tenth Grade Students faced at Senior High School 1 Patikraja, in reading English texts?
2. What are the factors causing the difficulties Tenth Grade Students faced at Senior High School 1 Patikraja in reading English texts?

C. Objectives of the Study

1. To identify the difficulties Tenth Grade Students faced at Senior High School 1 Patikraja, in reading English texts.

2. To identify the factors causing the difficulties Tenth Grade Students faced at Senior High School 1 Patikraja in reading English texts.

D. Benefits

The researcher hopes that the result of the research will be valuable for:

1. The Teacher

Hopefully, the teacher can guide students in English reading texts well.

2. The Students

Hopefully, the student will know about kind of difficulties in reading comprehension so then they can start working on it.

3. The Other Researchers

The researcher hopes that this research will be beneficial for the other researchers.